



Independently Toilet Trained Policy

Children enrolled in our 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old classes are expected to use the toilet independently, meaning the child must self-initiate bathroom use. Specifically, when your child feels the urge to use the restroom, he/she must be able to respond to those feelings by independently getting him/herself to the bathroom. If he/she only uses the bathroom with adult prompts, this is defined as 'scheduled' and does not fit our definition of independently toilet trained.

St. Andrew's definition or standard by which we measure an independently toilet trained child:

- ✓ The child is wearing regular underwear and remains consistently dry for 2-3 hours.
- ✓ The child can recognize his/her body's signal and indicates the need to use the bathroom (without an adult prompt)
- ✓ The child can control both his/her bowel and bladder and makes the trip to the restroom without soiling his/her clothing.
- ✓ The child shows AWARENESS if they have an accident.
- ✓ The child experiences fewer than two incidents of soiling him/herself per month.
- ✓ The child can pull up/down underwear, wipe, and flush the toilet without adult assistance.

Toilet behaviors in a preschool setting may not be the same as it is at home. We encourage you to foster independent toilet trained behaviors at home and in public many months prior to your child's first day at preschool.

We understand that each child arrives at this milestone differently, therefore we will allow 4 weeks from the first day of school for your child to demonstrate accomplishment of this goal. However, if the situation is not manageable within the classroom environment, we will discuss possible modifications with the parent, but reserve the right to unenroll or suspend attendance if the child's needs are greater than we can accommodate.

If a child has an accident, teachers will help him/her change into dry clothes, mostly encouraging him/her to do this independently. The wet/soiled clothes will be sent home in a bag. Depending on the frequency of the accidents, the parent may be called to discuss the child's readiness and options for how best to move forward.

This policy is not in place to shame/punish a child or to inconvenience the family. Rather, it is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of all children and staff, as tending to accidents in a preschool setting is time-consuming and detracts from instruction and supervision.

Thank you for your support and understanding.